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FROM: HELSINKI

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 547, APRIL 8, 5 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 547, REPEATED INFORMATION STOCKHOLM, OSLO, COPENHAGEN, MOSCOW UNNUMBERED.

WEEKEND OBSERVANCE ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING APRIL 6, 1948 FINNO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE TREATY FEATURED USUAL EXCHANGES OF SPEECHES, DELEGATIONS AND RECEPTIONS. AT CONVOCATION ORGANIZED BY FINN-SOVIET UNION SOCIETY APRIL 6 PM FAGERHOLM REVIEWED FINN FOREIGN POLICY AND RELATIONS USSR IN STANDARD TERMS, STRESSING FINLAND'S SATISFACTION WITH PAST DEVELOPMENT THOSE RELATIONS AND RESOLVE CONTINUE IN SAME WAY. STATING THAT THE COMMITMENTS CONTAINED 1948 TREATY (REGARDING MUTUAL RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES) NOT YET REALLY TAKEN SERIOUSLY, FAGERHOLM SAID "WE HAVE BETTER AND RELY ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS TO CONVINCE THE PAST DOUBTERS THAT THEY ARE WRONG".

WITHOUT IDENTIFYING RECENT IZVESTIA ARTICLE (MY TELEGRAM 539), PM SAID "CERTAIN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE PUBLISHED WORLD OVER" HAD CAUSED ANXIETY REGARDING FINLAND'S POSITION. "WE CAN SHOW THOSE OBSERVERS THEIR MISTAKE...BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT HOSTILE CRITICS AND PERHAPS EVEN RASH WORDS APPEAR NOW AND THEN AND HERE AND THERE, BUT THEY HAVE LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE COMPARED WITH THE FIRM AND STRAIGHT FORWARD BASIS OF FINNO-SOVIET RELATIONS".

IN ACCORDANCE PAST PRACTICE I DID NOT ATTEND SOVIET RECEPTION OBSERVING ANNIVERSARY NOR DID MY BRITISH AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES. DANISH AND NORWEGIAN AMBASSADORS PLANNED TO APPEAR BRIEFLY AND SWEDEN PROBABLY STAYED LONGER.

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